



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8
999 18TH STREET - SUITE 300
DENVER, CO 80202-2466

Ref: 8EPR-F

October 30, 2000

Mr. Joseph Legare
Department of Energy
Rocky Flats Field Office
P.O. Box 928
Golden, CO 80402-0928

**Re: Major Modification to the Operable Unit 1 Corrective Action
Decision/Record of Decision**

Dear Mr. Legare:

EPA has reviewed and revised the above referenced document, and discussed various technical details regarding it with DOE's contractors. Through these discussions, the RFCA parties have come to agreement regarding the modification of the OU1 CAD/ROD and the future activities that will occur at OU1 to ensure that the remaining groundwater plume does not adversely impact surface water. This document clearly states our interpretation of the data that has been collected in this operable unit over the course of more than ten years of study and eight years of interim remedial action. Although there remains some uncertainty in the specific mechanisms at work, the conclusion that has been reached by all parties involved is that natural attenuation is the primary factor limiting the movement of this groundwater plume. We are also confident that natural attenuation will prevent this plume from reaching downgradient surface water in the future, and have described a monitoring program that we feel will give us the necessary information to track the changes that will occur in the plume over time and distance. In conjunction with the monitoring, the document prescribes contingent actions that will be implemented should the groundwater plume appear to threaten surface water through its movement.

As specified in this document, groundwater pumping from the Collection Well will continue for only one year beyond the date that this modification is signed by the RFCA parties. Because of this and the importance of natural attenuation in controlling the spread of contaminants at this location, EPA recommended that the modified remedy be listed in the document as "Limited

ADMIN RECORD



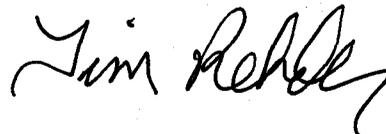
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Groundwater Pumping and Monitored Natural Attenuation". DOE has objected to including the words natural attenuation as part of the official modified remedy, but does agree that natural attenuation is the primary mechanism limiting the spread of contaminants in groundwater at this location. Since the RFCA parties are in agreement regarding the present and future actions to take place at OU1, EPA approves the document, as revised on October 24, 2000.

If you have any comments or questions regarding these matters, please contact Gary Kleeman at 303 312-6246.

Sincerely,



Tim Rehder, Manager
Rocky Flats Project

cc: Steve Gunderson, CDPHE
Carl Spreng, CDPHE
Lane Butler, Kaiser-Hill
Dave Shelton, Kaiser Hill
Admin. Record, Bldg 850



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